

Hatch was considering supporting. Bobby tracked him down in the hallway to share with him an anecdote about a zoo in Ohio that had requested a group of students with down syndrome leave because their presence was upsetting to the animals. Bobby explained to Senator Hatch that the fundamental discrimination these children faced was the same discrimination that people with HIV faced. In his sincere Bobby way, he was the perfect messenger and Senator Hatch ended up doing the right thing.

So on to the fun Bobby. Bobby and Lynne joined the Lowes Island County Club as it was a club without gender-based restrictions where Lynne could be the primary member and play golf anytime she wanted. The club was purchased by the Trump organization sometime later. Several times in that first year of the Trump presidency, Bobby would call, using that golf-tv announcer voice—to let me know that the President was on the 17th hole with a gazillion secret service agents—because I was in desperate need of this important information.

So, while I won't ever pick up the phone to "Hi, it's Bobby" again, I will carry him in my heart for all the days of my life. And I will always ask myself in a tough situation, what would Bobby do? And I would ask you do to the same.

When someone treats you with disrespect or anger, think—What would Bobby do? He would try to find out why they are upset and to see if there is a way to reach consensus.

When life throws you a curve ball, think—What would Bobby do? He would analyze the problem from every angle, go back to his fundamental principles of right and wrong, and come up with a solution.

And finally, when you are having a really bad day, think—What would Bobby do? Know that he would envelop you in his love, patience, and generosity and move heaven and earth to support you. And if you do that for someone else, Bobby will be on your shoulder cheering you on.

I am the most grateful person on the planet to have had this incredibly intimate personal and professional relationship with Bobby Silverstein. Every day since his death last week, I've woken up crushed by sadness but overwhelmed with the joy that comes with being Bobby's friend. How can you think about Bobby and not smile? As I put one foot in front of the other, I will think about what would Bobby do, what would Bobby expect me to do, and how can I advance his legacy. It won't be easy, but Bobby showed us what's possible.

[Nov. 22, 2022]

#### EULOGY FOR BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

(By Ralph Neas)

For 35 years, I have been in awe of Bobby Silverstein. The reasons are many. High on my list, of course, are his notable and numerous professional accomplishments, especially his leadership role in the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act.

But my role today is to discuss primarily the personal and not the professional. I would like to share with you two episodes in my life that demonstrate why no one could have a better friend than Bobby Silverstein.

In early November of 2018, I was laying paralyzed on an I.C.U. bed at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. For the second time in my life, I had contracted Guillain Barre Syndrome, a rare and usually reversible autoimmune disorder that can sometimes lead to total paralysis and death.

After confining me to more than 100 days in hospital beds, the syndrome had struck most of my body, but not my lungs. However, it had become increasingly apparent, as breathing and talking became more difficult, that my lungs were its next target and a ven-

tilator might be necessary to increase my chances of survival.

At this critical moment, in walks Bobby, with his perpetual grin, his sense of humor, and his trademark optimism. He had learned from Katy that I was in really bad shape. Bobby correctly figured out that I probably needed a close friend to help Katy keep me company and my sanity. And very importantly be my advocate when necessary.

He sure got that one right. And no one was better qualified. Bobby understood how vital it was for a patient in my condition to communicate needs and participate in important decisionmaking. He realized that without augmentative and alternative communication devices, those goals would be impossible to achieve. Bobby and the hospital's alphabet chart became an incredible team. Thanks to them, my anxiety level dropped considerably.

But soon it was clear that if I were to live, I had to be put on a ventilator. Bobby was the last nonmedical person I saw before the medical procedure and the first one I saw as I regained consciousness. And Bobby and the alphabet chart remained my constant companions until I was out of the woods. Bobby had been the indispensable friend we all need when the stakes are the highest.

Fast forward four years: Bobby is battling cancer and my communications with him are by email or phone calls. I told Katy that I forever will owe Bobby "big time" for what he did for me in 2018. It was time for me to return the favor. I would visit him in person on a regular basis for as long as it took to get him better.

On November 5, I was on my way to the Silverstein home, armed with three bowls of chicken soup (of course) for Lynne, Bobby, and myself. While we waited for Lynne to return from an errand, Bobby and I sat on the porch, basking in the early fall sunlight and talking about everything: families, politics, sports, friends, and his tenacious battle to defeat pancreatic cancer.

An hour into our conversation, Bobby pivoted suddenly and dramatically to the strong possibility that pancreatic cancer might win. He made it abundantly clear that he would continue to fight the cancer with all his might, but he knew the odds were not in his favor. He just wanted me and everyone else to know that he was not afraid of dying. Indeed, if he died, he would die a happy man. He explained that he had lived a full life, experiencing all its joys, especially the love of his family and friends and his enormous love for them.

Bobby first talked about how wonderful it was to have been married to Lynne, the love of his life, for 51 years. Then he turned to Mark and Evan and how fabulous and loving they had been as sons and how they had married Steph and Christie, two remarkable and loving women. And to the surprise of no one in this room, Bobby shared with me for the millionth time, how spectacular it was to be the grandfather of Cyrus, Chloe, Jacob, and Bailey.

And yes, he did mention his professional career with a sense of pride in his accomplishments and the opportunities he had to help better the lives of countless Americans.

While Bobby talked, I realized that once again I was the one receiving another friendship gift. In his careful, diplomatic, and effective way, Bobby was making it clear that it is possible to achieve balance in one's personal and professional lives—with a lot of hard work, the willingness to compromise, and love.

As I drove home that day, I promised myself that no matter what life still had to offer, I would try to be more like Bobby. Once again, thank you, my dear friend.

#### HONORING MAYOR JOHN DUNBAR

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor John Dunbar in honor of his retirement and record eighteen years of service on the Yountville Town Council.

Mr. Dunbar is a native of Oakland, California and a graduate of the University of California, Davis. He moved to Yountville in 1998 and joined the Zoning and Design Review Board in 2003. In 2004, he was appointed to the Town Council and was elected to his first full term two years later. Mr. Dunbar was elected Vice Mayor of Yountville in 2008 and Mayor in 2010, 2014 and 2018. His 18 years on the Town Council and 12 years as Mayor are both record-long tenures.

Over the course of nearly two decades of public service, Mr. Dunbar has been a leading advocate for equality in the Napa Valley. In 2009, he authored the successful Yountville Equal Rights Resolution and in 2019, supported the raising of the Rainbow Flag in honor of Pride Month. In an effort to boost local interest in the arts, Mr. Dunbar helped found the Yountville Arts Commission and made countless investments in community programs.

As Mayor, Mr. Dunbar oversaw years of a balanced budget and remained committed to supporting local industry, wildfire prevention and affordable housing within the town of Yountville. He has also been a champion of climate change initiatives and conservation efforts. Outside of his local duties, Mr. Dunbar has represented Yountville within the League of California Cities, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For the 2019–2020 term, he became President of Cal Cities where he represented the state's almost 500 municipalities in both regional and national discussions on local government.

Mr. Dunbar is a member of many boards and organizations including the Napa County Climate Action Committee, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, the Yountville Tourism Improvement District's Local Governing Committee and the Pathway Home nonprofit veteran treatment program. Since 2012, he has also served on the Napa Exposition and Fair Board.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Dunbar for his years of selfless service and commitment to the people of Yountville. His efforts have made the town a more welcoming, safe and enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, it has been more than two months since 22-year-old Mahsa Amini died alone in a hospital bed in Tehran.